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NOAA Gulf of Mexico News

NOAA Forecasts Larger Than Normal "Dead Zone" for Gulf This Summer

A team of scientists from NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, and Louisiana State University is forecasting that the "Dead Zone" off the coast of Louisiana and Texas this summer will be larger than the average size since 1990.

This NOAA supported modeling effort, led by Eugene Turner, Ph.D., of LSU, predicts this summer's "Dead Zone" will be 6,700 square miles, an area half the size of the state of Maryland. Since 1990 the average annual hypoxia-affected area has been approximately 4,800 square miles. The forecast is based on nitrate loads from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers in May and incorporates the previous year's load to the system. The nitrogen data are provided by the U.S. Geological Survey. NOAA funds research cruises to track development of hypoxia.

The "Dead Zone" is an area in the Gulf of Mexico where seasonal oxygen levels drop too low to support most life in bottom and near-bottom waters. It is caused by a seasonal change where algal growth, stimulated by input of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers, settles and decays in the bottom waters. The decaying algae consume oxygen faster than it can be replenished from the surface, leading to decreased levels of dissolved oxygen.

There are multiple models of the size of the hypoxic zone that are useful in evaluating the influence of nitrogen load and variations in ocean currents on the size of the "Dead Zone." These models do not always produce similar results, and model improvement is one focus of ongoing research. Over the past four years, NOAA and its collaborators have compared two independent models. The LSU model is the most accurate model based on past performance, but it is still in the experimental stages. Additional research for model improvement is required before this annual prediction can become an operational forecast.

"We are anticipating a larger hypoxic zone this summer because the nitrate loading this May, a critical month influencing the size of the area, is higher than last year," said Turner, explaining the NOAA forecast. "The result is that we will have some additional key information about the relative contribution of stratification and nutrient concentrations in different years which should help us better understand the causes behind this annual event."

"This prediction is an example of the ecological forecasting capabilities of NOAA and its partners," said David Whitall, Ph.D., a NOAA scientist involved in the project. "We believe such forecasts will become important tools for coastal managers in the coming years."

Research indicates that nearly tripling the nitrogen load into the gulf over the past 50 years has led to the heightened Gulf of Mexico hypoxia problem. The scientists say their research will improve assessments of hypoxic effects under various gulf coast oceanographic conditions. These research, observational, and modeling studies are part of a larger NOAA sponsored effort to develop a fundamental understanding of the northern Gulf of Mexico ecosystem with a focus on the causes and effects of the hypoxic zone over the Louisiana continental shelf and the prediction of its future extent and impacts to ecologically and

commercially important aquatic species, <http://www.cop.noaa.gov/stressors/pollution/current/gomex-factsheet.html>.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

National Ocean Service: <http://www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/>

NCCOS Gulf of Mexico Ecosystems & Hypoxia Assessment:

<http://www.cop.noaa.gov/stressors/pollution/current/gomex-factsheet.html>

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Holds Implementation Workshop

On July 18-19, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance held an Action Plan Implementation and Integration Workshop in New Orleans, Louisiana. The purpose of the workshop was to detail and reach consensus agreement on the specific steps and partnership commitments that will be necessary to achieve the goals of the Governors' Action Plan.

The [Governors Action Plan](#), a 36 month strategic partnership initiative designed to help address several key issues facing the Gulf States coastal communities, was release in March 2006. The Governors Action Plan outlines 11 strategic goals within 5 priority themes (i.e., Water Quality, Habitat Restoration, Habitat Identification, Nutrient Reduction, and Environmental Education).

A team of state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities, and representatives of business and industry convened during the workshop to develop an implementation plan for each priority theme. The implementation plan builds upon the [matrix of activities](#) available on-line. Each Gulf state serves as coordinator for the priority theme areas:

- Environmental Education: [John Dindo](#), Dauphin Island Sea Lab
- Water Quality: [Steve Wolfe](#), Florida DEP, Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas
- Habitat Restoration: [Len Bahr](#), Governor's Office of Coastal Activities or [Dugan Sabins](#), Louisiana DEQ
- Nutrient Reduction: [Richard Ingram](#), Mississippi DEQ Office of Pollution Control
- Habitat Identification: [Larry McKinney](#), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

For more information you can contact [Brent Ache](#) or for information about a specific theme area, contact the above coordinator.

Redesigned OCRM Website Includes New Features

The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) recently launched its entirely redesigned external website, www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov. One of the key features of the new site is a "My State" area, which allows visitors to quickly get an up-to-date picture of all OCRM activities within a particular state or territory. In addition, coastal program managers can use the OCRM site to access a password-protected "portal," which houses centralized access to information, discussion forums, and workgroups to facilitate the exchange of information. The portal also serves as a gateway to program guidance, tools, publications, and projects. CZM Programs can send requests for portal accounts to Laurie.Rounds@noaa.gov. The new OCRM website also includes information and key components of the Coral Reef Conservation Program, which is now part of OCRM. The development of the website

involved many individuals in OCRM and the Special Projects Office. For more information contact Chris.Stevens@noaa.gov.

Improved Information on Estrogen Mimicking Chemicals and Inhibitors to Advance Management of Environmental Toxicants

Many estuaries suffer from chemical contamination and nutrient-overload due to rapidly increasing human coastal populations, urbanization, industrial effluents, and agricultural run-off. Scientists from the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science -sponsored Aquatic Research Consortium (ARC) are working to develop stressor-specific diagnostic tools which indicate initial ecological change due to decreased water quality, ultimately seeking to assist federal agencies in assessing the health of fish stocks and the effects of anthropogenic inputs. ARC's researchers recently demonstrated that exposure to zenoestrogen, estrogen mimicking chemicals, and estrogen inhibitors causes complete male to female sex conversion in aquatic wildlife. Estrogen mimicking chemicals are found in many pesticides and herbicides, while estrogen inhibitors, such as tributyltin, are often found in antifouling biocides. For more information, contact [Carol Auer](#).

New Genomic Libraries Fill Information Gap for Improved Modeling to Predict Harmful Algal Blooms

The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) has developed the first genomic DNA bacterial artificial chromosome library to a dinoflagellate, the Florida red tide *Karenia brevis*, and has completed sequencing of a DNA library containing the chloroplast genome of this species. Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) genomic libraries provide the foundation to fill information gaps in the genetics and physiology of HAB species and support the development of models by scientists to manage harmful algal bloom events. The current products, which facilitate structural analysis of the *K. brevis* genome, build upon a set of NCCOS-developed gene expression tools for this harmful algal species. These research products respond to the U.S. National Plan for Algal Toxins and Harmful Algal Blooms to build genomic tools for harmful algae and make them available to the research community. For more information, contact [Fran Van Dolah](#).

NOAA Brings Shipwrecks, Marine Life Closer to Home Through New Marine Science Web Portal

July 18, 2006 — [NOAA](#) and [Immersion Presents](#) launched oceanslive.org, a marine science portal that offers live video and special content to educate people of all ages about the ocean, including national marine sanctuaries. Immersion Presents is an after-school science education program founded by ocean explorer Robert Ballard. "NOAA is excited to offer this dynamic Internet-based resource, which will allow students, educators and the public to share in the thrill of discovery while learning more about the natural and cultural treasures of our national marine sanctuaries and the underwater world," said [NOAA National Marine Sanctuary program](#) director Daniel J. Basta. "Through oceanslive.org everyone can be a marine explorer."

In addition to watching live video from research expeditions, the portal's visitors can learn more about oceanography, marine life, conservation and preservation, marine research technologies, and the nation's

maritime heritage. To complement the video broadcasts, the portal offers lesson plans, videos, puzzles and games based on the marine environment.

The portal's first live "telepresence" broadcast on July 17 focused on a research expedition to the wreck of the Civil War ironclad the USS Monitor, located off the North Carolina coast. The expedition is a collaborative effort between the Institute for Exploration and the [NOAA Monitor National Marine Sanctuary](#) to generate a digital photographic mosaic of the ship's hull and surrounding wreckage. Live programming was fed via Internet 2 to sites across the country, and also was converted for broadcast through the oceanslive.org portal.

Relevant Web Sites
[Marine Science Portal](#)

New Web Service Allows Mariners and Public to View Charts

The Office of Coast Survey has introduced a new public service called the On-Line Chart Viewer at www.NauticalCharts.gov/viewer. The Viewer lets mariners and the public display any of the 1,000-plus nautical charts in the national suite using only an Internet browser. Each chart is updated weekly for Notice to Mariner corrections by NOAA's experienced nautical cartographers. The fast, raster-serving software of the Viewer permits rapid chart display, panning, and zooming. The On-Line Viewer can be used for planning and research, an easy reference document for navigation for recreational boaters, and a quick tool for professional mariners to examine recent changes in their intended routes. For more information, contact ChartViewer@noaa.gov.

In the Gulf States

Recent Grants Awarded to the Faculty of Dauphin Island Sea Lab

Contact: Lisa Young 251/861-7509

Dr. Richard Aronson, Senior Marine Scientist, Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) and Professor of Marine Sciences, University of South Alabama (USA), recently received \$25,000 from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), State Lands Division, Coastal Section to investigate trophic dynamics of a created salt marsh in coastal Alabama. He also received \$152,019 from EPA's Alabama Center for Estuarine Studies to research impacts of salt-marsh restoration on ecosystem function and export to estuarine environments.

Dr. Ken Heck, Senior Marine Scientist, DISL and Professor of Marine Sciences, USA, received \$200,000 from NOAA-USA Oyster Restoration Program for research on restoring estuarine landscapes in Alabama's Coastal Waters through the Creation of Oyster Reefs. He also received \$52,000 to maintain the Research Experience for Undergraduates Program funded by the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Heck and Dr. John Dindo, Senior Marine Scientist, DISL, received \$52,336 from the Gulf of Mexico Foundation for a restoration and protection project of grassbeds surrounding Robinson Island.

Dr. Hugh MacIntyre, Senior Marine Scientist, DISL, and Assistant Professor of Marine Sciences, USA,

received \$24,500 from ADCNR for research on Little Lagoon as an Incubator Site for the Harmful Bloom-Forming Diatom Pseudo-Nitzschia. He also received \$270,274 from The Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environment Technology to study Improved Characterization of Microalgal Abundance and Taxonomic Status through Laser-Induced Fluorescence.

Dr. MacIntyre is currently spending this summer as a Research Fellow at Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche-sur-mer (France).

Florida Releases Ocean and Coastal Value Study

-- Study compares coastal and inland economies --

TALLAHASSEE – The Department of Environmental Protection recently released the Florida Ocean and Coastal Economies report which estimates the value of Florida's ocean and coastal market. Part of the Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts, the study is a guide for progress of the Gulf of Mexico that will be used by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance.

Conducted by the National Ocean Economics Program (NOEP), the report compiles information from 1990 - 2003 to provide a comprehensive examination of Florida's marine economies. "The report is an important part of the Governors' Action Plan to protect and preserve the Gulf of Mexico," said Stephanie Bailenson, director of Florida's DEP Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA). "The information and findings from the study will be used to strengthen protection of Florida's marine and coastal resources."

The report includes the following findings:

- Florida produced \$23.2 billion from transactions of marine resources and operative industries.
- Ocean tourism and recreation for 2005-2015 in Florida is projected to grow by 73 percent, creating more than 268,000 new jobs.
- Florida's Gross State Product (GSP) for transportation and recreation is one of the top five in the nation, a significant influence on the ocean economy.
- Florida's coastal counties increased employment by 31 percent, wages by 48 percent and the GSP by 63 percent.
- Florida's inland economy GSP is almost \$200 billion compared to over \$402 billion for the state's shoreline economy, a difference of almost 300 percent.

The Governors' Action Plan is the result of 12 months of collaboration between the Gulf States, a 13-agency federal workgroup, interested citizens and other partners. The action plan is a part of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, a coordinated response to President George W. Bush's Ocean Action Plan calling for development of regional goals and priorities to safeguard the nation's oceans. For more information, or to read the Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts, visit www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org.

Blanco Follows Through on Fed Lawsuit to Stop Lease Sale

By City Business staff report 2006-07-20 3:48 PM CST

BATON ROUGE — Gov. Kathleen Blanco today followed through on her promise to sue the federal government in an ongoing dispute over Louisiana's share of federal royalties generated by oil production off the state's coastline.

"Today, acting under the authority of Federal and state law and on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana, I have filed a complaint against the Federal government, specifically the Minerals Management Service (MMS) of the U.S. Department of the Interior. I have taken this action to ensure the long term protection of our coastal environment, the communities in south Louisiana, and the nation's critical energy infrastructure. This complaint asks the court to stop Lease Sale 200.

"The complaint states the ways in which the MMS has violated the National Environmental Protection Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act in moving forward with Lease Sale 200. This oil and gas lease sale in the Western Gulf of Mexico, scheduled for August 16, will make available millions of acres of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for exploration and production. As on leases throughout the Gulf, the production resulting from this lease sale will require the essential onshore support of coastal Louisiana. As in the past, this support does impact our fragile coastal landscape.

"In spite of the persistent and dramatic land loss in coastal Louisiana and the devastating effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on our coast, MMS has chosen to proceed with the lease sale over my objections. This action shows a callous disregard for the serious concerns the state has articulated in letters requesting the lease sale be postponed.

"The state of Louisiana has historically been the federal government's No. 1 partner in providing our nation its domestic offshore energy supply.," Blanco said. "However, we cannot continue future OCS leasing until the state receives a federal commitment to ensure its ability to protect these national assets, environmental and economic. This is about ensuring the viability of a sustained domestic energy supply. It is ironic that MMS would disregard such a notion."

The suit accuses the federal Mineral Management Service of disregarding the environmental damage caused by oil and gas exploration, particularly after the damage done to the coastline last year by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Blanco seeks an injunction blocking a scheduled Aug. 15 lease of 4,000 blocks in the western Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas exploration.

The lawsuit is the latest in Louisiana's push for a greater share of federal royalties from oil and gas production off its coast. The issue has been brought forward every year, so far unsuccessfully, by the state's congressional delegation.

Louisiana DEQ Releases Comprehensive Plan for Disaster Clean-up and Debris Management

The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan for Disaster Clean-up and Debris Management is to establish a framework to facilitate the proper management of debris generated by natural disasters within the state. The goal is to facilitate a reasonable, efficient and prompt recovery from such disasters and be protective of human health and the environment. [Comprehensive Plan for Disaster Clean-up And Debris Management.](#)

Louisiana Sea Grant Receives APEX Award

The Louisiana Sea Grant College Program (LSGCP) communications office is the recipient of the 2006 APEX Award of Excellence for One-of-a-Kind Crisis and Emergency Communications for LSGCP's Louisiana Hurricane Recovery Resources Web Site.

Responding to the need for information in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, LSGCP Communications launched the Web site at www.laseagrant.org/hurricane/index.htm. Officially unveiled Sept. 19, 2005, it offered visitors information on topics such as wetlands, seafood, water quality, ports, economic impacts and rebuilding concerns. Through a question-and-answer format with experts from a variety of fields, residents, business owners and community leaders could find the information they need to make decisions about their immediate future. In its first 10 weeks of operation, more than 6,400 people visited the site. Nearly 5,000 entries in 11 categories and 102 subcategories were submitted to the Eighteenth Annual Awards for Publication Excellence (APEX) competition, sponsored by Communications Concepts Inc.

To view original Breaux Act Newsflash posted October 7, 2006 announcing Louisiana Sea Grant website, go to <http://www.lacoast.gov/news/index.htm>.

Marine Debris Removal Contract Awarded for MS Sound

July 19, 2006 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILOXI, Miss. – The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has announced that the U.S. Coast Guard has awarded the Hurricane Katrina marine debris removal contract for the Mississippi coastline, from below mean-high tide to one-half mile out, to Matthews Marine and Gulf Equipment LLC. This will be a joint venture between Matthews Marine of Pass Christian and Gulf Equipment of Theodore, Alabama. Matthews Marine has worked on several projects related to derelict vessel removal in the Mississippi Sound. Gulf Equipment performed marine debris removal work in Florida following Hurricane Ivan.

“I have sent Matthews Marine the list of our Mississippi fishermen who are interested in working the marine debris removal effort and Matthews seems interested in using it,” said DMR Staff Officer Irvin Jackson, who is working closely with the Coast Guard in coordinating the marine debris removal effort in Mississippi. Now that the contract has been awarded, marine debris removal in the Mississippi Sound is expected to begin within two weeks. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.state.ms.us.

Conservation Partners Sign Landmark Agreement to Restore Wildlife Habitat on Private Lands in Mississippi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 17, 2006

Contacts: Calvin Lunceford, 601/321-1133, Connie Light Dickard, 601/941-6395

A partnership of 21 federal and state agencies, conservation organizations and private companies is working to conserve fish and wildlife habitats on privately owned land. This group is called the Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife. “This kind of partnership is the wave of the future to leverage limited resources for the most benefit to our fish and wildlife resources across Mississippi,” said Sam D. Hamilton, regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Southeast Region in Atlanta. “This partnership promises to build upon the efforts many of the groups already have underway individually.”

With about two-thirds of our nation’s land in private ownership, landowners are important keepers of essential fish and wildlife habitat. As Aldo Leopold, the father of wildlife conservation, noted over 75 years ago, it is prudent that “... we recognize the landowner as the custodian of public game ... and compensate ... with cash, service or protection for the use of his land ...” The Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife are working to do some of those very things.

"I believe that this partnership agreement lays the groundwork for an effective process for all parties to leverage their limited project funds and technical assistance efforts for the voluntary conservation of fish and wildlife resources on private lands in Mississippi," said Ronnie Haynes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's regional coordinator for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in Atlanta. "It is our hope that this cooperative partnership will serve as a working model for other states in the Southeast Region."

Agencies, corporations and landowners who are interested in learning more about Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and the projects that are being done, can contact Calvin Lunceford, coordinator for Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife and private lands biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife contact information is posted on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mississippi Field Office website at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/jackson/index.html>.

Many of the 21 partners started working together in February 2005 and finalized the memorandum of understanding in February 2006. Examples of projects in specific habitat types include: bottomland hardwood reforestation and hydrological restoration in wetlands; prescribed burning and timber stand improvement in uplands; reestablishing flows in streams and establishing riparian buffers in aquatic habitats; reestablishing native grasses in the native prairie habitat; and reforestation of longleaf pine in suitable habitat.

Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program Wins National Award

Volunteers save state \$1.2 million last year alone cleaning Texas beaches

AUSTIN — The more than 11,000 volunteers who pitched in to clean Texas beaches last year also helped to earn a top national award for their service, said Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office.

Thanks to these dedicated volunteers, the Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program has won a national Take Pride in America award from the U.S. Department of the Interior. The honor is bestowed on individuals or organizations that work to enhance public lands. The Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program was selected over hundreds of other efforts by a panel of judges.

This award comes on the heels of a report from the Ocean Conservancy that shows marine debris is a staggering problem that's getting worse. More than 8.2 million pounds of trash were removed from 18,000 miles of coastline in 74 countries last year alone. The Take Pride award is further evidence that Texas is leading the way to clean up the mess. "Texans should take pride in knowing that the all-volunteer beach cleanup efforts they started here have spread around the world and are making a real impact," Patterson said.

Last year, 11,116 Texans spent six hours cleaning up our state's coastline. If cities and counties had paid workers for these cleanups, it would cost about \$1,169,180 according to labor-cost calculations provided by Independent Sector, a non-profit leadership forum for charities, foundations, and corporate giving programs.

"The Adopt-A-Beach volunteers don't just talk a cleaner environment, they go out there and make it happen," Patterson said. "By donating their time and effort they not only help protect the environment, they help all Texas." Beach and marine debris are ever-growing problems. But Texas leads the nation in taking steps to clean it up with the all-volunteer Adopt-A-Beach Program.

The Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program started with just a few thousand volunteers in 1986. Since then it has grown to include three annual cleanups and many thousands of dedicated volunteers. Data collected by Texans through the Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program played a key role in helping to pass an international agreement that limits dumping of trash from seagoing vessels. The program has been copied worldwide, with annual cleanups taking place in more than 100 nations. Since the first cleanup in 1986, more than 340,000 volunteers have picked up more than 6,400 tons of trash along 200 miles of Texas beaches.

This year, the Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program is reaching more people than ever before, thanks to a generous donation of \$20,000 from Shell Oil Company. Texans can now make tax-deductible donations directly to the Texas General Land Office's Adopt-A-Beach Program via the agency's Web site. The Adopt-A-Beach Program is also asking for in-kind donations. Current items on our wish list include trash bags, latex gloves and sharpened pencils — these items are used for Adopt-A-Beach cleanups across the state.

The Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program will be having a mid-summer direct mail fundraising campaign to encourage more Texans to contribute to this highly successful program. For more information on the Adopt-A-Beach Program or to make a donation, please visit www.texasadoptabeach.org or contact the GLO at 1-877-TXCOAST.

Applications Being Accepted for Grant Money to Move Houses Off Public Beach

Patterson offers cooperation, hopes to avoid litigation to enforce Texas Open Beaches Act

AUSTIN — Following the June announcement of his Plan for Texas Open Beaches, Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson today provided applications to owners of houses on the public beach to apply for a reimbursement of up to \$40,000 to move the structures inland. "It is my duty to enforce the Texas Open Beaches Act, but it is my hope to be able to work with these property owners and avoid costly litigation," Patterson said.

The reimbursements are the first step in Patterson's Plan for Texas Open Beaches and represent the first time the state has worked to cooperate with home owners to resolve the long-standing problem of private homes on the public beach. "I'd rather assist a property owner than sue one," Patterson said. "But either way, I'm committed to resolving this problem. Texas beaches must be open for all."

Owners of the 116 houses on the public beach were sent letters this week informing them how to apply for the expense reimbursement grants. Patterson urged the property owners to apply now for the limited money available to help them comply with the state's Open Beaches Act. A total of \$1.3 million is available to assist the 116 property owners. Those who do not apply by the October 2 deadline may not be eligible for future reimbursement.

"I know \$40,000 may not cover all the cost of moving a house, but this is just the first step," Patterson said. "I will continue seeking additional funding to help these property owners get off the beach, and I pledge to find more ways to work with those who are willing to do what is required."

Patterson's "Plan For Texas Open Beaches" presents eight proposals, some of which include legislative measures for the 2007 state Legislature. The plan makes it clear that the Land Office will continue to pursue litigation to remove houses from the beach — if necessary. June 7, 2006 marked the expiration of

Patterson's two-year moratorium order, which suspended the ability of state and local officials to file suit to remove 116 houses from the public beach.

With the expiration of this moratorium order, the houses remaining on the beach, or seaward of the natural line of vegetation, became subject to removal actions from state and local officials. Patterson said he hopes the Land Office will be able to approve every application filed for reimbursement. But if the total cost of applications for reimbursement exceeds the money available, he will have to prioritize the requests. In that case, priority will go to structures that pose a threat to public health and safety in the event of a storm surge and other hazards, or those that block public access to the beach.

Satellite Tracking Study to Shed Light on Tarpon Migration

AUSTIN, Texas — For many a veteran angler, the pinnacle of a fishing career comes with the explosion of chromed muscle that signals his first tarpon hook-up. That experience was once common on the Texas Gulf coast; so common, in fact, that through the 1950s, tarpon tournaments were commonplace and presidents and potentates made the journey to the third coast to catch a “silver king.”

Then, the tarpon seemed to just disappear. By the early 1970s, the sought-after sportfish were rarely seen off Texas, and even more rarely landed. And no one really knows why.

The construction of reservoirs and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway diminished and altered freshwater inflows; coastal development filled-in critical habitat and water quality declined as population and industry expanded. Biologists say all are factors that likely contributed to the species' decline. In addition to those perturbations, commercial fishing pressure in Mexico increased over the years and often targeted tarpon.

“It is difficult to put your finger on the one reason for the decline in tarpon along the Texas coast,” said Larry McKinney, Ph.D., director of Coastal Fisheries for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. “It is likely a combination of many things. One of the confounding factors is that we actually know very little about the biology of the species.”

Researchers hope to change that beginning with the Tarpon Tomorrow Pro-Am Tournament Aug. 4-5. At the event, headquartered at Laguna Harbor in Bolivar, Texas, scientists will attempt to place as many as one dozen pop-up archival transmitting tags on tarpon. The tags, known by the acronym “PAT,” are embedded in the muscular backs of the fish for up to two years. While being towed by the tarpon, the tags record the fish's movement, water depth and water temperature at regular intervals. At a preset time, the tag pops off the fish and floats to the surface where it transmits the recorded information to an orbiting satellite.

“It's going to tell us, we hope, information concerning Texas tarpon migration as well as their behavior in entering and leaving Texas estuaries,” said Scott Alford, tournament committee chairman for Tarpon Tomorrow, a non-profit foundation dedicated to understanding and protecting tarpon stocks. “There's also going to be an effort to place some tags in tarpon off Port O'Connor and in the bay.”

Alford said his goal as a lifelong tarpon angler is to see uniform management of the tarpon population across the Gulf of Mexico, and researchers say the PAT program will help do just that.

“The information collected on this research project will have a direct application to the management of this species by defining the population or “stock” shared by different States and Mexico,” said Ivonne Blandon, a biologist and genetics expert at TPWD, who is coordinating the effort for the agency. “It is

truly an international scientific effort as we are working with experts from all around the world but especially Mexico.”

Already, PAT deployments from taggings in Mexico, Louisiana, Florida and the Atlantic seaboard have yielded valuable information about the migratory patterns of the fish. Tarpon Tomorrow is the driving force behind the ongoing project and is leading a group of like-minded sportfish conservation organizations — Tarpon and Bonefish Unlimited and the Coastal Conservation Association — in gathering support for the study. Tarpon Tomorrow has secured private funding for the purchase of about half a dozen of the \$3,500 tags, and TPWD purchased six of the tags for use by the program.

The study itself is a collaboration headed by Jerald Ault, Ph.D., of the Rosenstiel Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Scott Holt of the University of Texas Marine Science Institute, and biologists from TPWD and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

While not as abundant as in the 1950s, tarpon seem to have made something of a comeback in recent years along the Texas coast. The numbers today are sufficient to support a small but productive recreational fishery and a number of guides specialize in catch-and-release trips for the silver king. The tagging program is part of a larger effort by anglers and agencies to improve the fishery. TPWD has also been studying hatchery techniques, working to assure freshwater inflows in Texas bays, protecting water quality and restoring critical habitat along the Texas coast and in conjunction with counterparts in Mexico.

“It will take all of us together, scientists, fisheries managers, conservation organizations and saltwater anglers to assure the future of tarpon,” said McKinney. “But for the first time in many years I see the possibility of progress towards that goal and we do not want to miss that window of opportunity.”

Other News

Refuge and Park Recovery Funding to Restore Gulf Coast Wetlands, Undertake Other Projects

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 18, 2006

Contacts: Hugh Vickery, 202-501-4633 Jeff Fleming, 404-274-6693

(New Orleans) – Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne today announced \$256 million in new federal funds to restore vital Gulf coastal wetlands on national wildlife refuges, rebuild Interior facilities, and undertake other hurricane recovery projects. “We stand with the people of Louisiana and other Gulf states as they seek to rebuild their communities and restore their coastal ecosystems,” Kempthorne said. “This includes providing new funding to restore national wildlife refuges, national parks and other Interior facilities in Gulf Coast states that were devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.”

Kempthorne emphasized that wetland restoration is paramount to both the people and wildlife of the Gulf Coast region. “More than 118 square miles of coastal wetlands and marshes on the southeastern Louisiana coast were turned into open water by the storms,” he said. “The damage to this coastal ecosystem has accelerated wetland losses, endangering communities across the coast and threatening nationally significant fish and wildlife resources and important on-shore facilities.”

President Bush signed legislation last month providing \$256 million for Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and Florida. The funds are in addition to \$70.3 million provided in Dec. 2005. Combined, the two appropriations provide a total of \$162.4 million to restore national wildlife refuges, many of which were severely damaged by the storms; \$74.4 million will help national parks, which also were hard hit; \$31 million to assist the Minerals Management Service, which had to relocate its regional headquarters; and \$15.5 million to enable the U.S. Geological Survey to replace stream gauges and other vital water monitoring equipment. The appropriations also include \$43 million for grants to states for historic preservation.

The funds are being used to remove debris and clear canals; repair levees, docks, bridges, roads, campgrounds, and trails; restore damaged or destroyed buildings; replace lost equipment, vehicles, and boats; and restore damaged cultural artifacts. The restoration funding also will generate millions of dollars in purchases, create thousands of jobs, and help to revitalize the region's economy.

"People cannot live there if the Delta dies. It's as simple as that," Kempthorne said. "This is a national challenge that requires all of us to work together to solve. Restoring a sustainable wetland ecosystem must be a part of any rebuilding plan if we are to address future risks to human safety." Louisiana contains 45 percent of the nation's coastal wetlands, including 10 national wildlife refuges and one national park, covering more than 310,000 acres.

"Our national wildlife refuges and national parks contribute to the larger solution by restoring their levees, clearing their marshes and wetlands of debris, and working with state and local partners on long-term, common-sense solutions to halt the accelerated loss of coastal wetlands," Kempthorne said. "Nearly \$80 million of the funding for the Fish and Wildlife Service will be used on national wildlife refuges and other Service facilities in Louisiana," he said. "So we'll be ready when Louisianans are ready to seek outdoor recreation."

Earlier in the day, Kempthorne took a helicopter tour of some of the devastation and visited Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge where he saw the impacts of salt water intrusion into the refuge and the loss of important marshes inside the levees. Many acres of trees in the refuge were once a beautiful hardwood oasis for songbirds and refuge visitors alike. Today, because of the saltwater intrusion, the trees are dead. "Without a self-sustaining coastal wetland ecosystem, not only are fish and wildlife resources at risk, but the coastal communities, infrastructure and industries will surely face increasing risks as the protective wetlands, barrier islands and other natural features are converted to open water," he said.

Kempthorne commended refuge employees for their extraordinary efforts in responding to last year's storms and rebuilding their communities and refuges. "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees have served, and continue to serve, the American public in so many ways, and I just want to thank them for a job well done," he said.

Army forwards Preliminary Technical Report on Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration to Congress

Washington (July 10, 2006) - The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr., today forwarded the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Preliminary Technical Report on Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR) to Congress.

"The Preliminary Technical Report forwarded to Congress today describes the proposed of hurricane risk reduction measures for South Louisiana, including "Category 5" decision framework that will be used to identify, analyze and present options for a full range measures," said Woodley. "It also describes the technical information that has been collected over the past six months to support the development of the final report due in December 2007."

"The design and development of this report has been accomplished in close coordination with the state of Louisiana and its Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority," added Woodley. "More than 90 organizations had input into its development, and it has undergone thorough review and analysis at all levels of local, state and federal responsibility, as appropriate."

The report meets the first of two report requirements placed on the Secretary of the Army by Congress and the President as provided for under the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2006, passed in November 2005, and amended by the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006, passed on December 30, 2005. This legislation directed the Secretary of the Army, working through the Chief of Engineers, to produce a preliminary technical report for comprehensive "Category 5" protection within six months of the enactment of the DOD supplemental legislation and a final technical report within two years.

Under these acts, the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers is to:

- Conduct a comprehensive hurricane protection analysis and design at full Federal expense to develop and present a full range of flood control, coastal restoration, and hurricane protection measures exclusive of normal policy considerations for South Louisiana.
- Submit a preliminary technical report for comprehensive "Category 5" protection within 6 months of enactment of the Act.
- Submit a final technical report for "Category 5" protection within 24 months.
- Consider providing protection for a storm surge equivalent to a "Category 5" hurricane within the area.
- Submit reports on component areas of the larger protection program for authorization as soon as practicable.

The legislation also directs the Corps to conduct these studies exclusive of normal policy considerations for risk reduction measures. In addition to traditional identification of the costs and benefits of particular measures, for example, the final report will present information on the assets at risk in each area and the number of people now living there, and propose factors or measures to evaluate options for reducing the risk from damaging storms with different magnitudes and different trajectories. The analysis will focus on options that are also compatible with restoring the natural wetlands ecosystem of South Louisiana. The Preliminary Technical Report provides information that will guide the work necessary to complete the Final Technical Report. It does not contain the level of technical information required to support further authorizations for feasibility studies or construction.

The Final Technical Report will assist decision makers in making decisions as to the appropriate and practical locations, levels and types of risk reduction measures. Interim reports are anticipated, and may include information on component parts of the system that is suitable to support the authorization of feasibility-level engineering studies or construction decisions in some instances. Interim reports may also correct or update any information provided in the preliminary report.

The Administration's intent is that any federal funding decisions for construction of risk reduction measures must be:

- informed and confirmed by the framework used in the Final Technical Report;
- compatible with Louisiana's coastal wetlands ecosystem;
- supported by formal engineering studies, and;
- subject to annual budget requests and necessary authorizations.

The Preliminary Technical Report on Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration is available on the web at <http://lacpr.usace.army.mil/>.

Atchafalaya Meetings on Water Quality, Recreation

Meetings begin Monday on Henderson Unit's water quality and basin recreation

NEW ORLEANS – Citizens are invited to a series of public meetings beginning Monday on improving water quality in the sprawling Henderson Lake area of Louisiana's famed Atchafalaya Basin and on reassessing recreation through the 595,000-acre basin. The first of five meetings will be held Monday, July 24 in Morgan City, at the Morgan City Auditorium, Highway 182 and Myrtle Street. The full list of meetings, dates and locations is attached.

The meetings concern the construction and operation of the Henderson Water Management Unit, the second water quality project of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System Project. The meetings will also focus on reassessing the recreational features of the ABFS project. "These will be scoping meetings, in which the public is asked to present concerns and facts to help the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determine the full scope of considerations necessary to achieve these goals and to frame a supplemental environmental impact statement," said Project Manager Mark Wingate. At 80,000 acres, the Henderson Water Management Unit is five times the size of Henderson Lake that it embraces. The unit is bounded on the north by U.S. 190 at Krotz Springs, on the east by the Atchafalaya River, on the south by the Butte La Rose Canal and on the west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee.

Written and oral comments concerning issues to be addressed in the SEIS will be taken at the scoping meetings. A court reporter will record oral comments. In addition, you may submit written questions or comments using the following methods. The deadline for submitting written comments is Aug. 24, 2006.

Send comments to: HMU/ABFS Recreation Feature SEIS Project Office, P.O. Box 2188, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, tel. 225-383-1780, fax 225-387-0203, e-mail HendersonRecSEIS@tetrattech-ffx.com Or click here www.tetrattechffx.com/henderson_seis/ and use the electronic survey form.

Public meetings for Atchafalaya Basin Floodway Project's
--Henderson Water Management Unit and Recreation Feature

- Morgan City—Mon, July 24, at 5:30 p.m. Morgan City Auditorium, Highway 182 and Myrtle St.
- Henderson—Tues, July 25, at 5:30 p.m. Henderson Recreational Facility, 1007 Amy St.
- Baton Rouge—Wed, July 26, at 5:30 p.m. LA Wildlife & Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Dr.
- Jeanerette—Thurs, July 27, at 10 a.m. Veterans Memorial Building Post 26, Tarleton Street.
- Bayou Sorrel —Fri, July 28, at 5:30 p.m. Faith Tabernacle Church, Bayou Sorrel Road.

Grant Opportunities

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Regional Partnership Request for Proposals- Deadline Extended

The deadline on the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Regional Partnership Projects Funding Announcement has been extended to July 31, 2006. To access the details on the request for proposals, please go to: <http://www.epa.gov/gmpo>.

The Gulf of Mexico Program is announcing the [availability of funding](#) to address activities in the [Gulf of Mexico Alliance](#) Governors' [Action Plan](#) for Healthy and Resilient Coasts. For further information or alternative submission methods contact: Esther Coblentz Coblentz.esther@epa.gov Phone: 228-688-1281

The deadline for submissions is now **July 31, 2006**, 6 pm CST. Proposals should be submitted by electronic mail to GMP.proposals@epa.gov or through <http://www.grants.gov>.

Funding Opportunity Description: An estimated amount of up to \$3,000,000 for between approximately ten to fifty cooperative agreements may be awarded under this announcement to eligible applicants for projects that improve the health of the Gulf of Mexico by addressing improved water quality and public health, priority coastal habitat protection/recovery, more effective coastal environmental education, improved habitat identification/characterization data and decision support systems, and strategic nutrient reductions. Projects must actively involve stakeholders and focus on support and implementation of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts.

Eligible Applicants: State and local governments, interstate agencies, tribes, colleges and universities, individuals, and other public or nonprofit organizations. EPA will require nonprofit organizations selected for funding to provide verification of their nonprofit status prior to the grant award.

Matching Requirements: There is no matching requirement; however, the extent of partnerships and leveraged funding will be considered by reviewers during the evaluation process.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Request for Proposal

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) is seeking proposals from qualified and experienced contractors to develop models to demonstrate the feasibility of using ecosystem modeling as a tool to address fishery management issues based on the attached Scope of Work.

The Contractor shall provide the necessary personnel and services to extend and apply an ecosystem model to an issue of relevance to fisheries management in accordance with the Scope of Work, terms, and conditions herein, and perform the necessary service from the date of award, or approximately September 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007.

1. Type of Order

The Council desires a firm-fixed-price order. The Contractor will be reimbursed separately for actual approved travel expenses incurred, that are not to be included in the contract price. All travel will be in accordance with Council travel rules.

2. Technical/Price Proposals

Submit one original and two copies of each proposal. Up to three proposals will be accepted. Each proposal should address one of the primary or secondary issues indicated in the Scope of Work.

The proposal must include the names of proposed key personnel along with their resumes or curriculum vitas. Respondents should also provide as part of their bid a brief description of similar work to that being procured under this solicitation.

TO APPLY:

Proposals may be mailed or e-mailed. If mailed, an electronic copy of the proposal on floppy disk, CD, or USB memory stick must be included.

Submit Proposal To:

Steven Atran

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 North Lois Ave., Suite 1100

Tampa, Florida 33607

Phone: 813-348-1630

Fax: 813-348-1711

e-mail: steven.atran@gulfcouncil.org

All proposals must be received by August 18, 2005.

Energy

MMS Issues Final Notice of Western Gulf Lease Sale 200

MMS 7/17/2006 URL: http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=34208

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) announced today in the Federal Register the Final Notice of Lease Sale 200 for offshore oil and gas in the Western Gulf of Mexico (GOM). The lease sale is scheduled for August 16, 2006, in New Orleans. Bid reading will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Acadia Ballroom of the Marriott Hotel at 555 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The lease sale encompasses 3,865 unleased blocks of approximately 20.87 million acres in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Planning Area offshore Texas and in deeper waters offshore Louisiana. The blocks are located from three to about 210 miles offshore in water depths of eight to more than 3,000 meters. MMS estimates the lease sale could result in the production of between 136 and 262 million barrels of oil and 0.810 to 1.440 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Bidders are advised that if the Draft Proposed Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012 is implemented in July 2007, as currently formulated, then certain blocks that are in the Garden Banks, Keathley Canyon, and Sigsbee Escarpment map areas will transfer from the Western GOM planning area to the Central GOM planning area. In association with this transfer, Western GOM Sale 200 is expected to be the last Western GOM sale to contain these blocks. After Sale 200, all transferred unleased blocks will not be available for lease again until the Central GOM Sale tentatively planned for March 2008.

The Final Notice of Lease Sale 200 will be posted on the MMS website at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov>. In addition, copies of the document are available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office, Public Information Unit, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123. Telephone (504) 736-2519, toll free 1-800-200-GULF.

Blanco Renews Vow to Fight Western Gulf Sale

by Matthew V. Veazey, Editor

Rigzone.com 7/17/2006 URL: http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=34195

Responding to the Minerals Management Service's announcement Monday that it will proceed with its upcoming Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale, Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco stood by previously stated threats to block the Aug. 16 sale. Blanco contends that her involvement has become necessary because the federal government has failed to properly support efforts to protect and restore the state's coastline, particularly after last year's ravaging hurricane season.

"I cannot allow this [lease sale] to occur without sufficient assurance that MMS has adequately studied and considered the potential impact of such activities to the state's coastal resources and communities in the post-Katrina and post-Rita environment," Blanco said in a statement released by her office. "Most importantly, I will not stand by as these activities continue without a federal commitment to protect and restore the bountiful assets of coastal Louisiana."

"With over a third of America's oil and gas supply coming through the wetlands of coastal Louisiana, these are truly national assets--providing economic and energy security for the entire country," said the governor. "It is disappointing that it has come to this, but the federal government has not heeded our repeated warnings. I am taking action."

Blanco said that she plans to "use all legal powers afforded me under federal and state law" to protecting Louisiana's coast. "I will challenge Lease Sale 200 in court," she added. "Our lawyers have been hard at work and they will put forward the best possible case for Louisiana. I will continue this fight until such time that the federal government and the Congress make a significant commitment to the long-term sustainability and protection of coastal Louisiana."

EPA Releases Natural Gas Regulatory Roadmap

Contact Information: Jessica Emond, (202) 564-4355 / emond.jessica@epa.gov

(Washington, D.C. - July 12, 2006) In an effort to advance President Bush's commitment to solving the nation's energy supply challenges, EPA released the "Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Regulatory Roadmap" today. The Roadmap offers guidance to industry on maintaining high environmental standards while new LNG facilities are being built.

"Over the past four years, the Bush Administration has worked to increase domestic energy supplies, encourage efficiency and conservation, and develop alternative and renewable sources of energy," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "Under President Bush's leadership, we are addressing our nation's growing energy needs in a way that will improve the lives and the livelihoods of generations of Americans."

The Roadmap will serve as an aid to industry to ensure a clear understanding of the environmental obligations that EPA is required to enforce. These requirements will provide greater regulatory certainty during the construction and operation of LNG facilities, both onshore and offshore.

Natural gas continues to play an important role in meeting our nation's growing energy needs. In 2005, natural gas accounted for 23 percent of our nation's total energy consumption. Recent studies suggest that domestic consumption of natural gas will continue to increase and that imports of LNG will meet much of the increased demand.

LNG presents an efficient way to transport natural gas via ship from foreign production areas to the United States. The cooling process reduces the volume of natural gas by a factor of more than 600, enabling one ship to transport enough energy to heat more than 43,000 homes per year. Once LNG arrives at an import facility, the LNG is typically stored at atmospheric pressure in super-insulated tanks before it is converted back into a gaseous state for shipment via pipeline or, in some instances, transported via truck to market. Roadmap information: <http://www.epa.gov/newsroom/lngroadmap.htm>

Training and Conferences

Project Design and Evaluation Course

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is pleased to offer this course in an effort to help its partners in their efforts to protect the natural environment and fulfill the Program's management plan. *Special thanks to NOAA Coastal Services Center for offering this course and to Sarasota County's Sustainable Sarasota for the use of a county meeting facility.*

Tuesday-Thursday, December 12-14, 2006

This is a 2.5-day course. The tentative agenda is to meet from 8:30 to 5:00 on Tuesday and Wednesday and 8:30 to 12:30 on Thursday.

Description of Project Design and Evaluation Course

This course provides coastal resource management extension and education professionals with the knowledge, skills, and tools to design and implement projects that have measurable impacts on the audience they want to reach. This interactive curriculum can help you increase the effectiveness of your projects by applying valid instructional design theory to their design. After attending the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Describe the context of project design and evaluation within the scope of agency and organization missions, strategic plans, and established program niches
- Apply appropriate instructional design theory and practices to project development
- Explain the role of logic models in project design and evaluation and create logic models for their projects
- Use performance measurement as part of project evaluation
- Describe three types and four levels of evaluation that can be applied to extension and education projects

This course was offered to CHNEP partners in 2003. On the third day of that course participants asked that the course be offered again the *next* year because it was that good!

Registration: The registration fee is \$60, which includes refreshment breaks and lunch. If you wish to attend but are unable to pay the registration fee, please contact Maran Hilgendorf. Refunds will not be issued. To register, please complete and submit the [on-line registration form](#) by **October 20** to help in the development of the workshop program.

- 1) Please complete and submit the on-line registration form (above) to reserve a space for you until payment is received.
- 2) Please print the completed on-line registration form and mail, along with a check made payable to SWFRPC, to:
Maran Hilgendorf, Communications Manager
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
1926 Victoria Ave ~ Fort Myers FL 33901-3414

If more than 30 people register, priority will be given to those who are helping to implement Charlotte Harbor NEP's management plan. Please be sure to complete both steps 1 and 2 to register for the conference. **Payment is requested promptly but will be accepted until December 1.** At that time your reserved space may be given to someone on the waiting list. Please share this message with others you think may be interested in participating, especially if they are or might help implement Charlotte Harbor NEP's management plan. Contact: Maran Brainard Hilgendorf, Communications Manager
mhilgendorf@swfrpc.org, www.CharlotteHarborNEP.org

9th International Conference on Shellfish Restoration

Throughout the world there is a growing commitment to the restoration of degraded coastal ecosystems. Political pressure by shareholders in the future of the world's coastal areas has resulted in renewed interest in preserving and enhancing coastal resources at all levels of government. At the local level many volunteer organizations have developed successful programs to identify problem areas, recommend improvements and monitor progress.

The 9th International Conference on Shellfish Restoration (ICSR'06) will provide an opportunity for government officials, resource managers, users, community leaders and residents to discuss approaches to restore coastal shellfish ecosystems through management, enhancement and restoration efforts, and to learn about and discuss innovative management, ecological and social approaches to restore degraded shellfish habitat and improve coastal ecosystem health.

Location: Charleston, South Carolina, USA

Dates: November 15-19, 2006

Contact Information: Elaine Knight

E-mail: Elaine.Knight@scseagrant.org

Phone: +1-843-727-6406; Fax: +1-843-727-2080

Home Page URL: <http://www.scseagrant.org/icsr.htm>

Did you find this edition useful? Please send suggestions, comments, and new items for publication to Laurie.Rounds@noaa.gov